

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 IO-13 /100 W  
-----061518 290405Z /17

R 280346Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5206

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PK, AF  
SUBJECT: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN IS BABRAK'S BROTHER

REF: KABUL 5170

1. SUMMARY. THE APPOINTMENT OF BABRAK KARMAL'S BROTHER, MAHMOUD BARYALAI, AS AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN REPRESENTS THE "EXILE" OF ONE MORE BABRAK CONFIDANT TO AN AMBASSADORSHIP ABROAD. BARYALAI'S LACK OF DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, AND THE EVIDENT ANIMOSITIES BETWEEN THE TWO WINGS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA), DO NOT NECESSARILY BODE WELL FOR PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED A DOWNTURN SINCE THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF JUNE 26 THAT MAHMOUD BARYALAI WILL BE THE NEXT AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN. PAKISTANI DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT BARYALAI IS A BROTHER OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BABRAK KARMAL. THIS APPOINTMENT TRACKS WITH OTHER INDICATIONS THAT AN ANTI-BABRAK PURGE IS NOW UNDERWAY (REFTEL), SINCE BARYALAI HAS BEEN AN  
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ARDENT SUPPORTER OF HIS BROTHER, AND MEMBER OF THE PARCHAM WING OF THE PDPA.

2. BARYALAI HAS NO DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE. COUPLED WITH THE INTERNAL PARTY ANIMOSITIES WHICH THIS WHOLESAL "EXILE" OF CLOSE BABRAK CONFIDANTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ENGENDER, WE FORESEE SOME POSSIBLE ROUGH SAILING AHEAD FOR PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WHICH HAVE

ALREADY HAD THEIR SHARE OF STRAIN SINCE THE REVOLUTION IN KABUL TWO MONTHS AGO. IN THIS REGARD, THIS APPOINTMENT IS A BIT PUZZLING, SINCE WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE REGIME WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE A FULLY TRUSTWORTHY AND LOYAL REPRESENTATIVE IN ISLAMABAD TO HANDLE THE SENSITIVE AND COMPLEX AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONSHIP. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT HE WAS CHOSEN AND THE AGREEMENT REQUEST SENT FORWARD BEFORE THE PURGE BEGAN. HIS BEING OUT OF THE COUNTRY NOW THUS SERVES THE TARAKI FACTION'S OTHER GOAL OF REMOVING BABRAK FOLLOWERS FROM AFGHANISTAN. BARYALAI MAY SERVE THE TARAKI REGIME WELL, SINCE HIS NEW POST CERTAINLY BEATS OTHER FATES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEFALLEN HIM.

4. BIO DATA AVAILABLE TO US ARE: HE IS A YOUNGER BROTHER OF BABRAK; HE STUDIED IN MOSCOW FOR TWO YEARS, AND GRADUATED FROM THE ECONOMIC FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KABUL; HE WAS EMPLOYED AT ONE POINT IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; AND, HE IS A DEDICATED AND CAREER LEFTIST.  
AMSTUTZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 28 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN IS BABRAK'S BROTHER  
**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, PK, AF, (BARYALAI, MAHMOUD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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